



News Release

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of Inspector General
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NASA Subcontractor Employee Charged

On March 7, 2000, Richard E. Finley, Vice President, R.E.F. Computer Consultants, Inc. (REF), Rockledge, FL, a former NASA subcontractor at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, was charged in a one-count criminal information filed in U.S. District Court in Orlando, Florida for violation of Title 18, United States Code (USC), Section 799, violating NASA regulations. Finley allegedly received confidential bidder's information from a former Lockheed Martin Space Operations (LMSO) contracting official, Vernon R. Baake. Finley used that information to unlawfully obtain a NASA subcontract. On January 11, 2000, Baake pled guilty to accepting kickbacks, a violation of Title 41, USC, Section 53, for his involvement in the matter and is awaiting sentencing.

The investigation is being conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General, Office of Criminal Investigations. Assistant United States Attorney Cynthia Hawkins-Collazo of the Middle District of Florida, (407) 648-7500, is handling the prosecution of this matter.

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